

**SUMMARY OF THE
ACCREDITING AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 1998**

The Accrediting Authority Committee of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) met on Thursday December 3, 1998 at 1 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) by teleconference. The meeting was led by its chair, Mr. John Anderson of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Division of Laboratories. A list of action items is given in Attachment A. A list of participants is given in Attachment B.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Anderson opened the meeting with a roll-call of committee members and only one responded. He noted that implementation of the NELAC program is in progress using Chapter 6 in assessing candidate accrediting authorities. He also reported that Mr. Michael A. Ross of the Registrar Accreditation Board (RAB) has agreed to become a member of this committee, but had a previous engagement that prevented him from participating in this meeting.

The committee has received reports of continuing concerns regarding conflicts of interest within governmental departments or agencies having both environmental laboratories and accrediting authority responsibilities. Even though this issue has been discussed in the past, and several changes having been made to the Chapter 6 language addressing this issue, it appears that the conflict-of-interest concerns have not been laid to rest. The committee took no action on this issue because the members felt that more specific information on the exact nature of the concerns needed to be available.

NEXT MEETING

Following general discussion and no additional committee members joining the call, Mr. Anderson adjourned this meeting at 1:25 p.m. He noted that the committee's next meeting is scheduled to be held at the Fourth NELAC Interim Meeting on Monday, January 11, 1999.

ACTION ITEMS
ACCREDITING AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 1998

Item No.	Action Item	Date To Be Completed
1.	Mr. Anderson was directed to obtain additional information regarding the ongoing concerns regarding conflicts of interest in Accrediting Authorities located organizationally in the same governmental department or agency that also has environmental laboratories. He is to report on his findings at the committee meeting scheduled for Bethesda, MD on January 11, 1999.	Information received on December 8, 1998

**PARTICIPANTS
ACCREDITING AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 1998**

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